WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   For use in a digital video recorder, an apparatus for performing time-shifted viewing of an incoming television program being received by said digital video recorder, the apparatus comprising:

a controller capable of creating a data file having a defined maximum size on a storage disk of said digital video recorder and capable of causing video data associated with said incoming television program to be stored sequentially in said data file from a first location to an Nth location, wherein said controller, in response to a determination that said video data has been stored in said Nth location, causes a next received video data to be stored in said first location.

2.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said controller uses a write pointer to cause said video data to be stored sequentially in said data file from said first location to said Nth location.

1   3.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said

2   controller updates said write pointer each time said video data is

3   stored to a location in said data file to thereby cause said video

4   data to be stored sequentially in said data file from said first

5   location to said Nth location.

1   4.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said

2   controller determines that said video data has been stored in said

3   Nth location when said write pointer is equal to a value associated

4   with said defined maximum size.

5   5.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said

6   controller causes said next received video data to be stored in

7   said first location by resetting said write pointer to a value

8   associated with said first memory location.

1   6.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said

2   controller is further capable of causing stored video data to be

3   retrieved sequentially from said data file from said first location

4   to said Nth location.

1   7.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said

2   controller, in response to a determination that said stored video

3   data has been retrieved from said Nth location, causes a next

4   stored video data to be retrieved from said first location.

1   8.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said

2   controller uses a read pointer to cause said stored video data to

3   be retrieved sequentially from said data file from said first

4   location to said Nth location.

9.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said

controller updates said read pointer each time said stored video

data is retrieved from a location in said data file to thereby

cause said stored video data to be retrieved sequentially from said

data file from said first location to said Nth location.

1   10. A digital video recorder capable of time-shifted viewing

2   of an incoming television program being received by said digital

3   video recorder, said digital video recorder comprising:

4   a video processor capable of receiving said incoming

5   television program and converting said incoming television program

6   to a baseband video signal capable of being displayed on a

7   television set coupled to said digital video recorder;

8   a storage disk for storing said incoming television

9   program; and

10   a controller capable of creating on said storage disk a

11   data file having a defined maximum size and capable of causing

12   video data associated with said incoming television program to be

13   stored sequentially in said data file from a first location to an

14   Nth location, wherein said controller, in response to a

15   determination that said video data has been stored in said Nth

16   location, causes a next received video data to be stored in said

17   first location.

1   11.   The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 10

2   wherein said controller uses a write pointer to cause said video

3   data to be stored sequentially in said data file from said first

4   location to said Nth location.

1   12.   The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 11

2   wherein said controller updates said write pointer each time said

3   video data is stored to a location in said data file to thereby

4   cause said video data to be stored sequentially in said data file

5   from said first location to said Nth location.

1   13.   The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 12

2   wherein said controller determines that said video data has been

3   stored in said Nth location when said write pointer is equal to a

4   value associated with said defined maximum size.

1   14.   The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 13

2   wherein said controller causes said next received video data to be

3   stored in said first location by resetting said write pointer to a

4   value associated with said first memory location.

1   15. The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 10

2   wherein said controller is further capable of causing stored video

3   data to be retrieved sequentially from said data file from said

4   first location to said Nth location.

1   16. The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 15

2   wherein said controller, in response to a determination that said

3   stored video data has been retrieved from said Nth location, causes

4   a next stored video data to be retrieved from said first location.

1   17. The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 16

2   wherein said controller uses a read pointer to cause said stored

3   video data to be retrieved sequentially from said data file from

4   said first location to said Nth location.

1   18. The digital video recorder as set forth in Claim 17

2   wherein said controller updates said read pointer each time said

3   stored video data is retrieved from a location in said data file to

4   thereby cause said stored video data to be retrieved sequentially

5   from said data file from said first location to said Nth location.

1   19. For use in a digital video recorder, a method for

2   performing time-shifted viewing of an incoming television program

3   being received by the digital video recorder, the method comprising

4   the steps of:

5   in response to receipt of a pause command, creating a

6   data file having a defined maximum size on a storage disk of the

7   digital video recorder;

8   storing video data from the incoming television program

9   in the data file sequentially from a first location to an Nth

10   location;

11   determining whether video data has been stored in the Nth

12   location; and

13   in response to a determination that video data has been

14   stored in the Nth location, storing a next received video data in

15   the first location.

1   20. The method as set forth in Claim 19 further comprising

2   the step of retrieving stored video data sequentially from the data

3   file from the first location to the Nth location.

1   21.   The method as set forth in Claim 20 further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   determining whether stored video data has been retrieved

4   from the Nth location; and

5   in response to a determination that video data has been

6   retrieved from the Nth location retrieving a next stored video data

7   from the first location.